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GRIZZLY BASKETBALL OUTLOOK

1971-72

## HEATHCOTE AIMS FOR "RUNNING GRIZZLIES"

New University of Montana basketball coach Jud Heathcote has been coaching fast break basketball since he began his career 21 years ago and this year will be no exception. The 1971-72 Grizzlies will run and run and run some more to try to improve on last year's 8-16 record.

Three starters and an alternate from last year's team and two community college transfers form the nucleus for this year's team. Heathcote believes they have the talent to run the fast break and, most important, play a strong defensive game.

"If we are going to have any success this year," Heathcote says, "it will be the result of our ability to play a good defense. We are not blessed with great offensive talent."

Montana was outscored by an average of nearly 10 points a game last year, and that is mainly what Heathcote wants to turn around.

The Grizzlies are not exceptionally big or quick this year, but so far are handling the fast break well enough so that Heathcote thinks they will score effectively with it.

"We are going to fast break at every opportunity," Heathcote says, "and I hope we don't have to slow the ball down as the season progresses." His chief concern is with developing a split second "conditioned reflex" change from defense to offense so the ball is moving down the court as soon as UM rebounds.

Ray Howard, a senior 6-8 center from Great Falls, is a strong man both defensively and offensively. He led the Grizzlies in scoring (13.8), field goal percentage (.683) and rebounding (11.2), and played his best ball toward the end of the season. He scored 27 points and collected 21 rebounds in the last game.

Joining from last year's starting five will be guard Mike Vernon and forward Willie Bascus. Vernon's 12.9 point-per-game average last year left him tied for second with Don Wetzel, who graduated.

Also lost to graduation were 6-8 center Lonzo Lewis, 6-6 forward Howard Clark and 5-10 guard Mike Heroux.

Vernon had two hot games last year -- 26 points against MSU and 31 against Idaho State. Vernon is a 6-4 senior. Bascus, a 6-5 senior, dumped in an average of 7.9 points each game last year. His great leaping abilities made him the third best rebounder on the squad with a 6.7 per game average.

A sometime starter last year, 6-7 junior center Earl Tye, will give the Grizzlies added strength in the middle.

Heathcote has imported two community college athletes from Washington who, judging from their past performances, should provide some scoring punch for the Grizzlies. Dale Parker, a 6-5 forward from Grays Harbor, led the Washington community college circuit in scoring last year with 26 points a game.

Not far behind him, with a 21 point average, was Mike Murray from Highline Community College in Seattle. The 5-11 guard is the quickest man on the team, and Heathcote is counting on him to help make the fast break lethal.

Adding veteran strength will be 6-3 junior forward Casey Walker and 6-2 senior guard Mike Judd. Both were squad members last year.

Up from last year's 11-7 freshman team are six talented sophomores led by 6-2 1/2 guard Robin Selvig, 6-6 forward Scott Hollenbeck and 5-10 guard Kevin Rocheleau. Selvig hit 17.9 points per game last year, Rocheleau 17.8 and Hollenbeck 13.6

Heathcote inherits a team from last year's coach Lou Rocheleau that finished tied for fourth in the conference with a 6-8 league mark. The Port Orchard, Wash., native is not used to losing, however. He comes to Montana from Washington State where his freshman teams compiled a 99-9 record from 1964 to 1969.

## BASKETBALL OUTLOOK--3

He is being assisted by Jim Brandenburg, former coach at Flathead Valley Community College. Brandenburg also handles the freshman team.

Heathcote sees defending Big Sky champion Weber State as the top team in the league so far. "They lost All-American center Willie Sojourner," Heathcote says, "but they have the rest of their starters back and they have a habit of winning." He picks Montana State, with 7-0 center Brent Wilson, as the number two team.

Montana has a rugged non-conference schedule this year that includes such major college powers as the University of Oregon, 17-9 last year; University of California at Santa Barbara, 20-7; University of Wyoming, 10-15, and Air Force Academy, 12-14.

Another early season highlight for the Grizzlies will be the Daffodil Classic Invitational Tournament in Tacoma Dec. 10 and 11 with St. Mary's College, Los Angeles State and Puget Sound University.

The Grizzlies have a 26 game schedule this season, 14 of which are conference contests. The opening game is Dec. 1 at the University of Oregon and the final game is Feb. 26 at Boise State. A total of 13 games will be played at home.

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

1971-1972

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Date	Opponent	Place
Dec. 1	University of Oregon	Away
Dec. 3	Washington State University	Away
Dec. 7	Wyoming University	Away
Dec. 10-11	Daffodil Classic--Tacoma, Wash.	Away
Dec. 13	Midwestern University	Home
Dec. 17	University of South Dakota	Home
Dec. 22	University of Calif., Santa Barbara	Home
Dec. 30	Portland State University	Home
Jan. 7	Idaho State University	Home
Jan. 8	Boise State College	Home
Jan. 15	Montana State University	Away
Jan. 17	Puget Sound University	Home
Jan. 22	Air Force Academy	Home
Jan. 24	Montana State University	Home
Jan. 28	University of Idaho	Home
Jan. 29	Gonzaga University	Home
Feb. 4	University of Idaho	Away
Feb. 5	Gonzaga University	Away
Feb. 7	Puget Sound University	Away
Feb. 11	Northern Arizona	Home
Feb. 12	Weber State College	Home
Feb. 17	Northern Arizona	Away
Feb. 19	Weber State College	Away
Feb. 25	Idaho State University	Away
Feb. 26	Boise State College	Away

NUMBER W. C	NAME	HT.	WT.	POS.	EXPERIENCE	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL
52	Chris Anderson	6-6 $\frac{1}{2}$	212	C	Frosh	Olympia, Washington	Olympia H.S.
10	William Bascus	6-4 $\frac{1}{2}$	205	G-F	2 V	Brawley, Calif.	Union H.S.
44	Scott Hollenbeck	6-5 $\frac{1}{2}$	209	F	Frosh	Spokane, Washington	Mead H.S.
40	Ray Howard	6-7 $\frac{1}{2}$	230	C	2 V	Great Falls, Mt.	Gt. Falls Public
34	Michael Hubbard	6-2	202	G-F	Frosh	Seattle, Washington	Shoreline H.S.
42	Michael Judd	6-2	187	G-F	Squad	Butte, Mt.	Butte Central
4	Blake Lyman	6-2	183	G-F	Frosh	Missoula, Mt.	Sentinel H.S.
20	Michael Murray	5-11	170	G	J.C.	Seattle, Wash.	*Highline CC
30	Dale Parker	6-5	195	F	J.C.	Galeton, Colo.	*Grays Harbor CC
14	Kevin Rocheleau	5-9 $\frac{1}{2}$	172	G	Frosh	Missoula, Mt.	Sentinel H.S.
22	Robin Selvig	6-1	173	G	Frosh	Outlook, Mt.	Outlook H.S.
50	Earl Tye	6-6 $\frac{1}{2}$	218	F	1 V	Central Point, Oregon	Crater H.S.
24	Michael Vernon	6-4	190	G-F	1 V	Oakland, Calif.	Oakland Tech
32	Casey Walker	6-3	171	F	Squad	Calipatria, Calif.	Calipatria H.S.

\*Community College

HEAD COACH:	Jud Heathcote	MANAGERS:	Don Ryan
ASSISTANT COACH:	Jim Brandenburg		Dennis Murphy